

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An insert-molded connector formed by insert-molding a housing (10) at least partly covering a core (30) holding at least one terminal fitting (20) as a core assembly, the core (30) comprises a holdable portion (36; 60) to be held by a molding die (50) at a position at least partly exposed from the housing (10).

2. The insert-molded connector of claim 1, wherein the housing (10) comprises a connector fitting portion (11) engageable with a mating connector (40), and the holdable portion (36; 60) is located in a sealed area of the connector fitting portion (11) defined between the connector fitting portion (11) and a mating connector (40).

3. The insert-molded connector of claim 1, wherein the housing (10) and the core (30) are molded of synthetic resin materials having different colors.

4. The insert-molded connector of claim 1, wherein the molding die (50) comprises a holding portion (56; 61) having a shape mating the holdable portion (36; 60) provided at the core (30) and engageable therewith.

5. The insert-molded connector of claim 1, wherein the core (30) comprises at least two holding members (31, 32) for holding the terminal fitting (20).

6. Then insert-molding connector of claim 5, wherein the holding members (31, 32) comprise interlocking means (34, 35) for interlocking the holding members (31, 32) to each other.

7. A method of molding an insert-molded connector, comprising the following steps:

providing a core (30) holding at least one terminal fitting (20) as a core assembly;

arranging a molding die (50) substantially around the core (30) in such a way that a holdable portion (36; 60) of the core (30) is held by the molding die (50), and

molding a housing (10) at least partly covering the core (30) within the molding die (50).

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the housing (10) and the core (30) are molded of synthetic resin materials having different colors.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the molding die (50) comprises mount grooves (54, 55) for positioning the terminal fitting (20) during the molding.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the core (30) comprises at least two holding members (31, 32) and wherein the terminal fitting (20) is at least partly fitted at least into a terminal mounting groove (33) of one holding member (31) and then another holding member (32) is fitted to the mounting surface of the holding member (31) for holding the terminal fitting (20) at least partly clamped between the holding members (31, 32).